

# **EPA's Beach Program- Looking forward to 2016**

**Great Lakes Beach Association/SOLM  
Conference**

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# Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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**Looking forward to 2016-  
We want to make sure we are  
pointed in the right direction**



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# One slide only on recent history

- EPA BEACH Act grants have been out of the Administration budget since 2013
  - 2013 CR, 2014 Enacted, 2015 Enacted
  - 2016: CR from 10/1 to 12/11/15→?
- New RWQC in 2012
- New Beach Guidance and Required Performance Criteria in 2014

# First order of business

- The 2016 National Beach and Recreational Waters conference will be held APRIL 2016 in Seattle, New Orleans, or Charleston.

# Second order of business

Adoption of 2012 RWQC in all waters

- Released in December 2012, adoption due December 2015;
- To contain acceptable magnitude, duration, and frequency in WQS;
- Selection and implementation of a Beach Notification Threshold-BAV or alternative.

# Additional Implementation Documents/Tools

- QMRA Guidance for states
  - Three volumes
- Guide to TSMs for deriving site-specific criteria
- Alternative health relationships TSM
- Alternative indicators TSM
- RWQC implementation in permitting

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/health/recreation/index.cfm>



# Future Program Content

## Two Scenarios:

### 1. With Grants

- There have been no missed grant years to date;
- A CR following any year with grants will have grants;
- Congress has twice rejected the proposal to eliminate Beach Program funding;
- The president signed both budgets.



# Future Program Content

## 2. A life without Beach Grants

- Many monitoring programs would be cut/eliminated;
- States/counties/municipalities still have the responsibility to protect public health;
- It would have to be done more cheaply and probably less effectively.

# Beach monitoring on the cheap

- Revisit beach tiering and tiered monitoring plan;
  - Which beaches to monitor;
  - How frequently to monitor;
  - Where would predictive models work?
- Lots of information in the 2014 Guidance.

# Back to the grants scenario (no money is no fun)

qPCR is getting better:

- Method 1611 Enterococci in Water
- Method 1609 Enterococci in Water  
with Internal Amplification Control
- Julie Kinzelman uses *E. coli* qPCR
- Method B: Bacteroidales in Water by  
qPCR

Would qPCR suit your monitoring  
program? Your wallet?

## Also under development

- EPA is developing AWQC for Coliphage, a viral indicator, to ensure public health protection from water sources that have been influenced by fecal contamination or wastewater discharge.

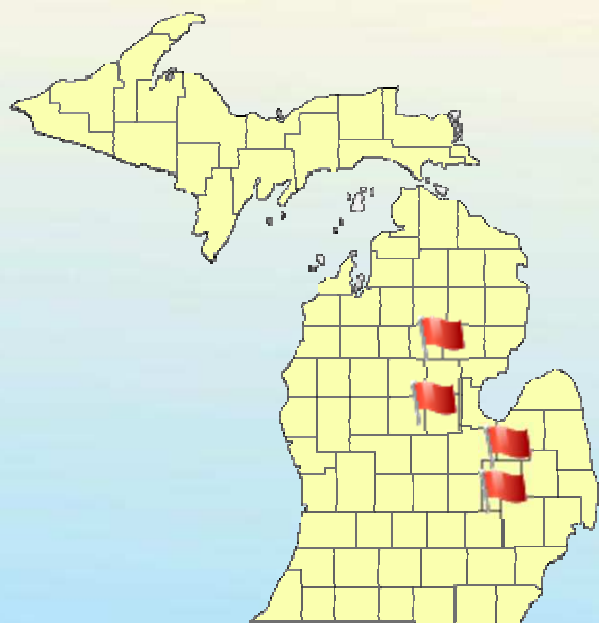
# Models work when you have money too

- Models are in use in 80-100 locations in the Great Lakes;
- Many of these use Virtual Beach (VB) Model Builder
- Can proximal or otherwise comparable settings use the same model?
- What other enhancements can be made to existing modeling approaches?

# Is the state notification system ready for an upgrade?

Current closures and advisories are displayed above

## Michigan Beaches



1226 Public Beaches

513 Private Beaches

## 4 Closures and Advisories

### Waterbody and Location Name

### County

[Ross Lake - Beaverton City Park](#)

Gladwin

[Kelly Lake - Kelly Lake](#)

Genesee

[Byram Lake - Clover Beach](#)

Genesee

[Lake St. Helen - Richfield Township Public Fishing Site](#)

Roscommon

water quality sampling results and beach advisories and closures

# Other Interests at EPA:

- Effects of Climate Change on:
  - Indicator/pathogen relationships
  - Pathogen viability
  - Intensity/frequency of precipitation events
  - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
  - Sea level rise and infrastructure erosion
- Source Tracking
- Mitigation Strategies



# Questions?

